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Janet Stolfi Alfano

January 29, 2013

Appropriations Committee
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Harp, Representative Walker and all members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Janet Stolfi Alfano, a resident of Southington, Connecticut, and the Executive Director of The Diaper Bank; a non-profit organization that distributes diapers to families in need in greater New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport and Middlesex County.

I am writing to express my support about the need for the continuation of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women as a stand-alone agency of our state. As a master's level intern at PCSW in 2006-2007, I saw first-hand the work that the commission does, from combating sexual discrimination in the workplace, to ensuring full access to women's healthcare, and increasing women's participation in the political process by serving on board and commissions throughout our state.

I have also benefitted from the work of the PCSW in my role as Executive Director of The Diaper Bank. The overwhelming majority of the families we serve are headed by low-income women. The research and leadership that PCSW provides help us to educate and advocate on behalf of our clients. We have used the B.E.S.T. tables to provide data and context to the work that we do. PCSW has provided strong leadership and guidance to me as the Executive Director. They also offer wonderful opportunities to young women-our future leaders-with the Young Women's Leadership Program.

These programs are great, yet we know that the work that PCSW does is far from over. There is still a wage gap, inadequate access to appropriate health care and violence against women. As a woman and a leader of an organization that serves women, the PCSW is vital to the optimal functioning of our state.

Sincerely,

Janet Stolfi Alfano